

(4)

*6. 22 d. 33*

A  
DESCRIPTION  
OF  
NEW-ENGLAND  
IN GENERAL:  
With a DESCRIPTION of the  
Town of BOSTON  
IN PARTICULAR.

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Published by JOHN SELLER.

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The first *English* that Planted here, set down not far from *Narraganset* Bay, and call'd their Colony *Plimouth-Colony*.

The whole Country is bounded on the North with *Nova Scotia*, and other unknown Countreys of the *Indians*; on the West with *Hudsons* River, and *New-York* Colony; on the South and East, with the great Western Ocean, and is now divided into these three great Colonies, viz. *Plymouth*, *Massachusetts*, and *Connecticut*.

On the West Coast of *New-England*, by the Sea-side, are many *English* Towns; as first *Westchester*, about 20 Miles from *New York*: To the Eastward of this is *Greenwich*, then *Chichester*, *Fairfield*, *Stratford*, *Milford*, all Sea Towns; Eastward of *Milford*, is *Newhaven*, *Brainford*, *Guilford*, and then *Connecticut* River, on which is situated 13 Towns; at the Mouth of the River on the West-side, is the Lord *Say*, and *Brooks* Fort, called *Say-Brooks-Fort*; beyond this Northward, is the Town of *Middletown*, *Wethersfield*, *Hartford*; about it low Land, well stored with Meadows, and very Fertile; then *Windfor*, and *Pinsers*-House, all which are situated on the West-side of the River: On the East-side of the River are situated these Towns, *Hadley*, *Harfield*, *Dearfield*, *Springfield*, which Towns are all in the Jurisdiction of the *Massachusetts* Colony; the last of which hath been infamous, by reason of Witches therein; *Pistol-Point* is also situated on the East-side of the River, and is in *Plymouth* Colony; *New-London* is seated by a small River, called *Pequet* River, which lies to the Eastward of *Connecticut* River.

From *Connecticut* River to *Hudsons* River, lieth *Long-Island*, stretching it self 120 miles, but is but narrow, and about 16 miles from the Main; the considerablest Town upon it is *Southampton*, built on the South-side of the Island, toward the East end: Opposite to this on the North-side is *Feversham*, West-ward is *Albford*, *Huntington*, &c. The Island is well stored with Sheep and other Cattle, and Corn, and is reasonable Populous. At the East-end lieth three small Islands called *Plumb-Island*, *Shelter-Island*, and *Gardiners-Island*, and due East from the Point of *Long-Island*, lieth *Block-Island*, and near the Main lieth *Fishers* Island.

The next place of Note on the Main, is *Narragansets* Bay, within which Bay lieth *Rhode* Island, which by the *Bostoners* is uncharita-

Christians, besides *Quakers*; who are forc't to flee from their violent Persecutions, for no other Reason, but because they dissent from them in their Worship; as witness their Imprisonments, Fines, Whippings, and Banishments.

Further Eastward lieth *Monument Bay*, and at the entrance of which, on the East-side, lieth *Elizabeth Islands*, and to the Eastward of them lieth *Martins Vineyard*, and to the Eastward of that lieth *Nantoket Island*. Now we strike off from these Islands to the Main, and arrive at the Wood-land of *Monomoy*, and from thence to *Cape Cod*, (so called at first by Captain *Gosnold*, and his Company, because they took much of that Fish there.) The first place to be taken notice of on the South-side of the Cape, is *West's Harbour*; the first Sea-Town, *Sandwich*: Doubling the Cape, we come now into *Barnstable Bay*, on the West whereof is *New-Plymouth Bay*, the first *English Colony* that took firm Possession in this Country, which was in 1620. and the first Town therein, was built nine years before any other Town; since which time of the first Building thereof, there hath been the increasing of forty Churches in this Colony, but many more in the rest; and the Towns have increased since to the number of 120. for the most part near the Sea-Coasts: The other Towns of Note in this Colony, are *Green Harbour*, to the Eastward of *Plymouth*, towards the Point of the Cape, therefore somewhat Inaccessible by Land: here is excellent Timber for Shipping; then *Tarmouth*, *Rehoboth*, *Bridgewater*, *Warwick*, *Taunton*, *Eastham*, by the *Indians* called *Namset*.

The first Town Northwest from *Green Harbour*, is *Sittuate*, in the Jurisdiction of the *Massachusetts Colony*; more Northward of *Sittuate*, is *Conchusset*, and *Hull*, a little Town lying open to the Sea; from thence we come to *Merton Point*, over against which is *Pulling Point*. Upon *Merton Point* (which is on the Larboard side) is a Town called *Nantascot*, which is two Leagues from *Boston*, where Ships commonly come to an Anchor. *Pulling Point* is so called, because the Boats are haled against the Tide, which is very strong; it is the usual Channel for Boats to pass into *Massachusetts Bay*.

There is an Island on the South-side of the Passage containing eight Acres of Ground, upon a rising Hill. Within this Island is mounted a Castle, commanding the Entrance; no stately Edifice, nor

strong, built with Brick and Stone ; kept by a Captain, under whom  
is a Master-Gunner, and others.

The Bay is large, made by many Islands ; the chief is *Deer-Island*, which is within a flight shot of *Pulling Point* : Great store of Deer were wont to swim thither from the Main ; then *Bird Island*, *Glass-Island*, *Slate-Island*, the *Governours Garden*, where the first Apple-Trees in the Country were Planted, and a Vineyard ; then *Round-Island*, and *Noddles-Island* not far from *Charles-Town* ; most of these Islands lie on the Northside of the Bay.

The next Town to *Nantascot*, on the South-side of the Bay is *Wissagisset*, a small Village, about three miles from *Mount-Wolleston* ; about this Town the Soil is very Fertile,

Within sight of this is *Mount-Wolleston*, or *Merry-Mount*, called *Massachusetts Fields* ; where *Chicatabat*, the greatest *Sagamore* of this Country, lived before the Plague. Here the Town of *Braintree* is seated, no Boat nor Ship can come near it, here is an Iron-Mill ; to the Westward of this Town is *Naponset River*.

Six miles beyond *Braintree*, lieth *Dorchester*, a Frontier Town, pleasantly seated, and of large Extent into the main Land, well Watered with two small Rivers ; her Body and VVings fill'd somewhat well with Houses, to the number of 200 and more, beautified with rare Orchards and Gardens ; having also plenty of Corn-Land, and store of Cattle, counted the greatest Town heretofore in *New-England*, but now gives way to *Boston* ; it hath a Harbour to the Northward for Ships.

A mile from *Dorchester*, is the Town of *Roxbury*, a fair and handsome Country-Town, the Streets large, the Inhabitants Rich, replenished with Orchards and Gardens, well watered with Springs and small Freshuts, a Brook runs through it, call'd *Smelt-River* ; a quarter of a mile to the North-side of the Town, runs *Stony-River*. It is seated in the bottom of a shallow Bay, but hath no Harbour for Shipping, only Boats come to it ; it hath store of Land and Cattle.



# A Description of the Town of B O S T O N.

**I**N the bottom of *Massachusetts Bay*, is *Boston*, and is the Metropolis of *Massachusetts Colony*, or rather of the whole Country, situated upon a Peninsula, about four miles in Compass; almost square, and invironed with the Sea, saving one small Isthmus, which gives access by Land to other Towns: On the South-side, the Town hath two Hills of equal height, on the Frontier part thereof next the Sea; the one well Fortified on the Superficies with some Artillery mounted commanding any Ship as she Sails into the Harbour, within the still Bay: The other Hill hath a strong Battery built with whole Timber, and fill'd with Earth. At the descent of the Hill, in the extreamest part thereof, between these two strong Arms, lies a large Cove or Bay, on which the chiefest part of the Town is built; to the Northwest is a high Mountain, that out-tops all with its three rising Hills on the Summit, called *Trimount*; this is furnished with a Beacon, and great Guns, (as may be seen in the Prospect of the Town, hereunto Annexed:) from hence you may over-look all the Islands in the Bay, and descry such Ships as are upon the Coast. The Houses are, for the most part, raised upon the Sea-Banks, and are Wharfed out with great Industry and Cost, many of them standing upon Piles, close together on each side, as in *London*, and furnished with many fair Shops; their Materials are Brick, Stone, Lime, handsomly contrived, with three Meeting-Houses, and a Town-House built upon Pillars, where the Merchants may Confer; in the Chambers above, they keep their Monthly Courts. Their Streets are many and large, Paved with Pebble-stone; and the South-side adorned with Gardens and Orchards. The Town is Rich and very Populous, much frequented by Strangers; here is the Dwelling-House of their Governour.

On the Northwest and Northeast, two constant Fairs are kept for daily Traffique thereunto: On the South there is a small but pleasant Common, where the Gallants a little before Sun-set walk with their

Marmalet Madams, ( as they do here in *Moor-fields* ) till the Nine-a-Clock Bell rings them Home to their respective Habitations; when presently the Constables walk their Rounds to see good Orders kept, and to take up loose People.

Two miles from the Town, at a place called *Muddy River*, the Inhabitants have Farms, to which belongs rich Arrable Grounds and Meadows, where they keep their Cattle in the Summer, and bring them to *Boston* in the Winter. The Harbour before the Town is filled with Ships and other Vessels, for most part of the Year.

*Hingham* is a Town situated upon the Sea-Coasts, Southeast of *Charles River*; there is great store of Timber, Deal-boards, Masts for Ships, white Cedar, and Fish is here to be had.

*Dedham*, an Inland Town, ten miles from *Boston*, in the County of *Suffolk*, well watered with many pleasant Streams, and abounding with Garden-Fruit; the Inhabitants are Husbandmen, more than a hundred Families, having store of Cattel and Corn.

The Town of *Weymouth* lies open to the Sea, on the East Rocks and Swamps, to the Southward good store of Deer, Arrable Land and Meadows.

On the North-side of *Boston*, flows *Charles-River*, which is about six fathom deep; many small Islands lie to the Bay-ward, and Hills on either side of the River, a very good Harbour; here may forty Sail of Ships ride. The Passage from *Boston* to *Charles-town*, is by a Ferry, worth forty or fifty Pound a year, and is a quarter of a mile over: the River *Mistick* runs through the North-side of the town, and by its near approach to *Charles River*, in one place makes a very narrow Neck, where stands most part of the town. The Market-place not far from the Water-side, is surrounded with Houses, forth of which issue two Streets, orderly built and beautified with Orchards and Gardens; their Meeting-House stands on the North-side of the Market, having a little hill behind it; there belongs to this town 1200 Acres of good Arrable Land, 400 Head of Cattel, and as many Sheep: these also provide themselves Farms in the Country.

Higher up in *Charles River* Westward, is a broad Bay, two miles over, into which runs *Stony River*, and *Muddy River*.

Towards the S. W. in the middle of the Bay, is a great Oyster-bank: towards the N. W. is a Creek: upon the shore is situated

the Village of *Maldford*, it is a mile and half from *Charles Town*.

At the bottom of the Bay, the River begins to be narrow, half a quarter of a mile broad; by the North-side of the River, is *New Town*, three miles from *Charles-Town* by Land, a League and a half by Water, it was first intended for a City; the neatest and best compacted Town, having many fair Structures and handsome contrived Streets, the Inhabitants rich; they have many hundred Acres of Land paied with one common Fence, a mile and a half long, and store of Cattle: It is now called *Cambridg*, where is a Colledg for Students, of late; it stretcheth from *Charles River* to the Southern part of *Merimach River*.

Half a mile thence, on the same side of the River, is *Water Town*, built upon one of the Branches of *Charles River*, very fruitful and pleasant; Springs of a large extent, with many small Rivolets, the Inhabitants live scattered: Within half a mile is a great Pond, divided between the two Towns. A mile and a half from the Town is a Fall of Fresh-waters, which conveigh themselves into the Ocean through *Charles-River*; a little below the Fall of Waters, they have a Wair to catch Fish, wherein they take store of Bas, Shads, Alwives, Frost-fish, and Smelts: in two Tides they have gotten 100000 of these Fish. They have store of Cattel and Sheep, and near upon 2000 Acres of Arable Land. Ships of small burden may come up to these Towns.

We will now return to *Charles Town* again, where the River *Mistick* runs on the North-side of the Town, where on the N. West-side of the River is the Town of *Mistick*, three miles from *Charles Town* by Land, a League and a half by Water, a scattered Village. At the head of this River are great and spacious Ponds, full of Alwives in the Spring-time; the notedst place for this sort of Fish. On the West of this River is Merchant *Craddocks* Plantation, where he hath Impaled a Park.

Upon the same River, and on the North-side, is the Town of *Malden*.

The next Town is *Winnisimmet*, a mile from *Charles Town*, the River only parting them; this is the last Town in the still Bay of *Massachusetts*.

Without *Pulling-Point*, six miles N. E. from *Winnisimmet*, is *Cawgust*, or *Sagust*, or *Sangut*, now called *Linn*, situated at a bottom of



a Bay near a River; which upon the breaking up of Winter, with a furious Torrent, vents it self into the Sea. The Town consists of more than one hundred dwelling-Houses; their Church being built on a Level (undefended from the N. W. wind) is made with steps descending into the Earth: Their Streets are strait, and but thin of Houses; the People most Husbandmen. At the end of a sandy Beach, is a Neck of Land called *Nahant*, it is six miles in Circumference. *Black William*, an Indian Duke, out of his Generosity, gave this to the *English*. At the Mouth of the River runs a great Creek into a great Marsh, called *Rumney Marsh*, which is four miles long, and a mile broad: This Town hath the benefit of Minerals of divers kinds, Iron, Lead, one Iron-Mill, store of Cattel, Arable Land and Meadow.

To the Northward of *Lin*, is *Marvil*, or *Marble Head*, a small Harbor, the shore Rocky, upon which the Town is built, consisting of a few scattered Houses: Here they have Stages for Fishermen, Orchards and Gardens; half a mile in the Land good Pastures and Arable Land.

Four miles North of *Marble Head*, is situated *New-Salem* (whose Latitude is forty two degrees, thirty five minutes) upon a Plain, having a River on the South, and another on the North side; it hath two Harbours, *Winter Harbour*, and *Summer Harbour*, which lieth within *Darbies Fort*: They have store of Meadow and arrable Land. In this Town are some very rich Merchants.

Upon the Northern Cape (that is) *Cape Ann*, a place of Fishing, is situated the Town of *Glocester*, where the *Massachusetts* Colony first set down, but *Salem* was the first Town built in that Colony; here is a Harbour for Ships.

To the Northward of *Cape Ann*, is *Wonnasquam*, a dangerous place to Sail by in stormy Weather, by reason of the many Rocks, and foaming Breakers.

The next Town that presents it self to view, is *Ipswich*, situated by a fair River, whose first rise is from a Lake of Pond, twenty miles up, breaking its course through a hideous Swamp for many miles, a Harbour for Bears; it issueth forth into a large Bay (where they fish for Whales). Due East, over against the Island of *Shoals*, a great place of Fishing; the Mouth of that River is barr'd; it is a good Haven-Town: Their Meeting-House, or Church, is beautifully built, store of Orchards and Gardens, Land for Husbandry and Cattel.

*Wenham*, is an Inland Town, very well watered; lying between *Salem* and *Ipswich*, consisteth most of Men of Judgment and Experience, in *re Rustica*; Well stored with Cattel. At the first rise of *Ipswich* River, in the highest part of the Land, near the Head-springs of many Rivers, *Shashin* is one of the most considerable Branches of *Merrimach* River. And also at the rise of *Mistick* River, and Ponds, full of pleasant Springs, is situated *Woburn*, an Inland Town, four miles square, beginning at the end of *Charles-Town* bounds. Six miles from *Ipswich*, N. E. is *Rowley*; most of the Inhabitants have been Clothiers.

Nine miles from *Salem*, to the Northward, is *Agowamine*, the best and most spacious place for a Plantation, being 20 Leagues to the Northward of *New Plymouth*.

Beyond *Agowamine*, is situated *Hampton*, near the Sea-Coasts, not far from *Merrimach*-River; this Town is like a *Flower de luce*, having two Streets of Houses wheeling off from the main Body thereof; they have great store of Salt, Marshes, and Cattel. The Land is fertile, and full of Swamps and Rocks. Eight miles beyond *Agowamine*, runneth the delightful River *Merrimach*, or *Monnumach*, it is Navigable for twenty miles, and well stored with Fish; upon the Banks grow stately Oaks, excellent Ship Timber, not inferiour to our *English*.

On the South-side of *Merrimach* River, twelve miles from *Ipswich*, and near upon the wide venting streams thereof, is situated *Newbury*; the Houses are scattering, well stored with Meadow, upland and arable, and about 400 Head of Cattel.

Over against *Newbury*, lies the Town of *Salisbury*, where a constant Ferry is kept, the River being here half a mile broad, the Town scatteringly built.

Hard upon the River of *Shashin*, where *Merrimach* receives this and the other Branch into its Body, is seated *Andover*, stored with Land and Cattel.

Beyond this Town by the Branch of *Merrimach* River, called *Shashin*, lieth *Haverhil*, a Town of large extent, about ten miles in length, the Inhabitants Husbandmen; this Town is not far from *Salisbury*.

Over against *Haverhil*, lieth the Town of *Malden*, which is already mentioned.

In a low Level, upon a fresh River, a branch of *Merrimach*, is seat-

ed Concord, the first Inland Town in *Massachusetts* Patent; well stored with Fish, Salmon, Dace, Alewife, Shad, &c. abundance of fresh Marsh and Cattel; this place is subject to bitter Storms.

The next Town is *Sudbury*, built upon the same River where *Concord* is, but farther up: To this Town likewise belongs great store of fresh Marshes, arable Land, and many Cattel. It lieth low by reason whereof it is much endamaged with Floods.

In the Centre of the Country, by a great Ponds side, and not far from *Woolburn*, is situated *Reading*, it hath two Mills, a Saw-Mill, and a Corn-Mill; it is well stockt with Cattel.

The Colony is dividjed into four Counties, the first is *Suffolk*, to which *Dorchester*, *Roxbury*, *Weymouth*, *Hingham*, *Dedham*, *Brain-tree*, *Sittuate*, *Hull*, *Nantascot*, *Wissagusset*. The second County is *Middlesex*, to this belongs *Charles-Town*, *Water-Town*, *Cambridge*, *Concord*, *Sudbury*, *Woolburn*, *Reading*, *Malden*, *Mistich*, *Medford*, *Win-nisimmet*, and *Marble-Head*. To the third, which is *Essex*, belongs *Ner-Salem*, *Lin*, *Ipswich*, *Newbury*, *Rowley*, *Glocester*, *Wenham*, and *And-over*. The fourth County is *Norfolk*, to this belongs *Salisbury*, *Hampton*, and *Haverhil*.

In the Year 1628. Mr. *John Endicot*, with a number of *English* People, set down by *Cape Ann*, at that place called afterwards *Glocester*, but their abiding place was at *Salem*, where they built a Town in the Year 1639. and there they gathered their first Church, consisting but of 70 Persons, but afterwards increast to 43 Churches, in joynt Communion with one another; and in those Churches were about 7750 Souls. Mr. *Endicot* was chosen their first Governour.

The 12th of *July*, 1630. *John Wenthorp*, Esquire, and the Assistants arrived with the Patent for the *Massachusetts*. The Passage of the People that came along with him in ten Vessels, came to 95000 Pound. The Swine, Goats, Sheep, Neat, Horses, cost to Transport 12000 Pound, besides the price they cost them: Getting Food for the People, till they could clear the Ground of Wood, amounted to 45000 Pounds. Nails, Glas, and other Iron-work for their Meeting and Dwelling-Houses, 13000 Pound. Arms, Powder, Bullet and Match, together with their Artillery, 22000 Pound; the whole Sum amounts unto One hundred ninety two thousand Pounds. They set down first upon *Noddles-Island*, afterwards they begin to build upon the

Main, in 1637. There were not many Houses in the Town of *Boston* amongst which were two Houses of Entertainment, called *Ordinaries*; into which if a Stranger went, he was presently followed by one appointed to that Office, who would thrust himself into his company uninvited; and if he called for more Drink than the Officer thought in his judgment he could soberly bear away, he would presently countermand it, and appoint the Proportion, beyond which he could not get one drop.

The Patent was granted to Sir *Henry Rosewel*, Sir *John Young*, *Thomas Southcoat*, *John Humphrey*, *John Endicot*, and *Simon Whitecomb*, and to their Heirs, Assigns and Associates for ever: These took to them other Associates, as Sir *Richard Saltonstall*; *Isaac Johnson*, *Samuel Aldersey* *John Ven*, *Matthew Craddock*, *George Harwood*, *Increase Nowel*, *Richard Perry*, *Richard Bellingham*, *Nathaniel Wright*, *Samuel Vase*, *Theophilus Eaton*, *Thomas Goff*, *Thomas Adams*, *John Brown*, *Samuel Brown*, *Thomas Hutchins*, *William Vase*, *William Pinchon*, and *George Foxcroft*. *Matthew Craddock* was ordained and constituted Governour by Patent, and *Thomas Goff* Deputy-Governour of the said Company, the rest Assistants.

That part of *New-England* granted to these forementioned Gentlemen, lieth and extendeth between the great River *Merrimach*, and the often frequented *Charles River*, being in a bottom of a Bay called *Massachusetts Bay*, and also those Lands within three miles to the South part of *Massachusetts Bay*, and all those Lands which lie within the space of three *English* miles to the Northward of the River *Merrimach*, or to the Northward of any and every part thereof, and all Lands whatsoever within the Limits aforesaid, North and South in Latitude; and in Breadth and Length and Longitude of and within all the Main Land there, from the *Atlantick* and Western Sea and Ocean on the East part, to the South Sea on the West part; and all Lands, Grounds, Places, Soils; Woods and Groves, Havens, Ports, Rivers, Waters, Fishings, and Hereditaments whatsoever, lying within the foresaid Lands, Limits, and every Part and Parcel thereof, and also all Islands lying in *America*, in the Seas aforesaid, or either of them on the Western and Eastern Coasts, or part of the said Tracts of Lands. Also all Mines and Minerals, as well Royal of Gold, Silver,

*Boston* holden of the East Mannor of *Greenwich*, in *Com. Kent*, in free and  
*ordina-* common Soccage, yielding and paying to the King the fifth part of  
*ed by* the Ore of Gold and Silver, which shall be found at any time.

*to his* This Colony of the *Massachusetts*, is a Body Corporated and Poli-  
*Offi-* tick in Fact, by the Name of the Governour and Company of the  
*would* *Massachusetts Bay* in *New-England*.  
*which*

*young,* That there shall be one Governour, and Deputy Governour, and  
*white-* eighteen Assistants, of the same Company.

*took* That the Governour, and Deputy-Governour, Assistants, and all  
*John-* other Officers, to be chosen from amongst the Freemen the last Wednes-  
*road,* day in *Easter Term* yearly, in the General Court.

*ight,* The Governour to take his Corporal Oath, to be true and Faithful  
*John* to the Government, and to give the same Oath to the other Officers.

*Pin-* To hold a Court once a Month, & any seven to be a sufficient Court.

*con-* And that there shall be four General Courts kept in Term time, and one great  
*of* General and Solemn Assembly, to make Laws and Ordinances; so that they be  
not Contrary and Repugnant to the Laws and Statutes of the Realm of *England*.

In the Year 1646, they drew up a Body of their Laws, for the well ordering  
their Commonwealth, as they not long since termed it.

The Military part of their Commonwealth is Governed by one Major General,  
and three Serjeant-Majors. To the Major General belongeth the Town of  
*Boston*, to the Serjeant-Majors belongs the four Counties, but with submission to  
the Major-General. The first Serjeant-Major chosen for the County of *Suffolk*  
was Major *Gibbins*; for the County of *Middlesex*, Major *Sedgwick*; for the  
County of *Essex* and *Norfolk*, Major *Dennison*.

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These and all other Maps, Maritime Charts, Draughts, Ma-  
thematical Books and Instruments, both of Sea or Land,  
are to be Sold by *John Seller*, at his House at the Her-  
mitage in *Wapping*, and at his Shop at the  
West Side of the *Royal Exchange*  
in *L O N D O N*. 1682.